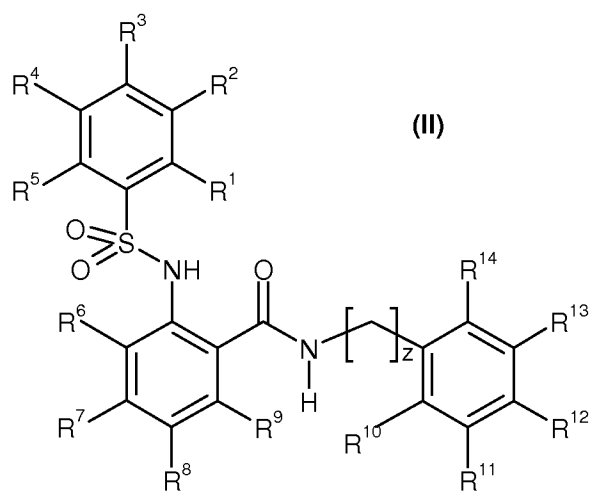


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1) (Currently Amended) An imaging agent which comprises a synthetic MSRA antagonist labelled with an imaging moiety, wherein the synthetic MSRA antagonist is a sulphonamidobenzamide compound of Formula (II):



wherein

z is 0, 1 or 2;

one of R2, R3, R7, R8 and R12 is said imaging moiety, and the remaining R2, R3, R7, R8 and R12 groups are independently selected from hydrogen, C1-6 alkyl, carboxy, or a halogen selected from chlorine, bromine or iodine; and wherein the imaging moiety can be detected externally in a non-invasive manner following administration of said labelled synthetic MSRA antagonist to the mammalian body in vivo.

2-4) (Cancelled)

5) (Currently Amended) The imaging agent of claim 3, wherein R³, R⁸ and R¹² are each independently a halogen selected from chlorine, bromine, fluorine or iodine.

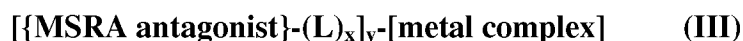
6) (Previously presented) The imaging agent of claim 1, wherein said imaging moiety is selected from:

(i) a radioactive metal ion;

- (ii) a paramagnetic metal ion;
 - (iii) a gamma-emitting radioactive halogen;
 - (iv) a positron-emitting radioactive non-metal;
 - (v) a hyperpolarised NMR-active nucleus;
 - (vi) a reporter suitable for *in vivo* optical imaging;
 - (vii) a -emitter suitable for intravascular detection.
- 7) (Original) The imaging agent of claim 6, wherein the radioactive metal ion is a gamma emitter or a positron emitter.
- 8) (Original) The imaging agent of claim 7, wherein the radioactive metal ion is selected from ^{99m}Tc , ^{94m}Tc , ^{111}In , ^{113m}In , ^{64}Cu , ^{67}Cu , ^{67}Ga , ^{68}Ga , ^{48}V , ^{52}Fe and ^{55}Co .
- 9) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 6, wherein the paramagnetic metal ion is selected from paramagnetic ions of Gd, Mn and Fe.
- 10) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 7, wherein the paramagnetic metal ion is Gd(III).
- 11) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 6, wherein the gamma-emitting radioactive halogen is a radioactive isotope of iodine.
- 12) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 11, wherein the radioactive isotope of iodine is chosen from ^{123}I or ^{131}I .
- 13) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 6, wherein the positron-emitting radioactive non-metal is selected from ^{11}C , ^{13}N , ^{15}O , ^{17}F , ^{18}F , ^{124}I , ^{75}Br and ^{76}Br .
- 14) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 13, wherein the positron-emitting radioactive non-metal is ^{18}F .
- 15) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 6 wherein the hyperpolarised NMR-active nucleus is selected from ^{13}C , ^{15}N , ^{19}F , ^{29}Si and ^{31}P .

16) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 15 wherein the hyperpolarized NMR-active nucleus is ^{13}C .

17) (Previously presented) The imaging agent of claim 6, wherein the imaging moiety is a radioactive or a paramagnetic metal ion and the metal ion is attached to the MSRA antagonist as part of a metal complex to form a conjugate of Formula (III):



wherein:

$-(\text{L})_x-$ is a linker group wherein each L is independently $-\text{CZ}_2-$, $-\text{CZ}=\text{CZ}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-\text{CZ}_2\text{CO}_2-$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{CZ}_2-$, $-\text{NZCO}-$, $-\text{CONZ}-$, $-\text{NZ}(\text{C}=\text{O})\text{NZ}-$, $-\text{NZ}(\text{C}=\text{S})\text{NZ}-$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NZ}-$, $-\text{NZSO}_2-$, $-\text{CZ}_2\text{OCZ}_2-$, $-\text{CZ}_2\text{SCZ}_2-$, $-\text{CZ}_2\text{NZCZ}_2-$, a C_{4-8} cycloheteroalkylene group, a C_{4-8} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-12} arylene group, a C_{3-12} heteroarylene group, an amino acid or a monodisperse polyethyleneglycol (PEG) building block;

Z is independently chosen from H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxyalkyl or C_{1-4} hydroxyalkyl;

x is an integer of value 0 to 10; and

y is 1, 2 or 3.

18) (Original) The imaging agent of claim 17 wherein the metal complex is a coordination complex of the radioactive metal ion or the paramagnetic metal ion with one or more ligands.

19) (Original) The imaging agent of claim 18 wherein said one or more ligands are chelating agents selected from diaminedioximes, N_3S ligands, N_2S_2 ligands, N_4 ligands and N_2O_2 ligands.

that the $-(\text{L})_x]_y-\text{[ligand]}$ is present at R2, R3, R7, R8 or R12, in order to be consistent with revised claim 1.

20) (Currently Amended) An imaging agent precursor of Formula (IIIa):



wherein:

the MSRA antagonist is as provided in claim 1 and the $-(L)_x[y\text{-[ligand]}]$ is present at R2, R3, R7, R8 or R12 and further wherein $(L)_x$ is a linker group wherein L is as defined in claim 17;
x is an integer of value 0 to 10; and
y is 1, 2 or 3.

- 21) (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the imaging agent of claim 1, together with a biocompatible carrier, in a form suitable for mammalian administration.
- 22) (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 21 for use in the diagnostic imaging of cardiovascular disease.
- 23) (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 21 for use in the diagnostic imaging of atherosclerotic plaques, coronary artery disease, thrombosis, transient ischaemia or renal disease.
- 24) (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23 for use in the diagnostic imaging of atherosclerotic plaques.
- 25) (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24 for use in the diagnostic imaging of unstable atherosclerotic plaques.
- 26) (Previously presented) A kit for the preparation of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 21, comprising a precursor of the imaging agent of claim 1.
- 27) (Original) The kit of claim 26 wherein said precursor is of Formula (IIIa) of claim 20.
- 28) (Original) The kit of claim 27 wherein the preparation of said pharmaceutical composition comprises reaction of a radioactive metal ion or a paramagnetic metal ion with the precursor of Formula (IIIa).
- 29) (Original) The kit of claim 28 wherein the radioactive metal ion is selected from ^{99m}Tc , ^{111}In , ^{64}Cu , ^{67}Cu , ^{67}Ga and ^{68}Ga .

30) (Previously presented) The kit of claim 28, wherein the radioactive metal ion is ^{99m}Tc .

31) (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 28 wherein the paramagnetic metal ion is selected from Gd, Mn and Fe.

32) (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 31 wherein the paramagnetic metal ion is Gd(III).

33) (Canceled) Use of the imaging agent of claim 1 for the diagnostic imaging of cardiovascular disease.

34) (Canceled) The use of claim 33 wherein the cardiovascular disease is atherosclerosis.